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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 20518/6-CON-RCE (S-8165-CON)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): William R. Fiehler      EXAMINER: Kim, Sun U  
SERIAL NO.: 09/803,570      CONFIRMATION NO.: 6856  
FILED: March 9, 2001      ART UNIT: 1723  
FOR: *A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING SEPARATOR GEL  
IN A BLOOD COLLECTION TUBE*

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to, Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

*September 10, 2003*  
Date

*Michelle A. Phinney*  
By: Michelle A. Phinney

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 30, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks set forth below.

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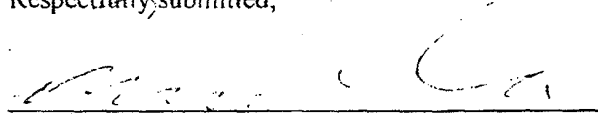
and not obvious over McNeal '600 for at least the reasons outlined hereinabove. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-11 and 14-30 presently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguish over the art of record. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fees that may become due at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any over payment of such fees to deposit account no. 50-0369. Also, in the event that any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application, please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge deposit account no. 50-0369 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 28, 2003